

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 02025 132305Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /050 W

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R 131513Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1120

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOME 2025

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TO

SUBJECT: GOT RECONCILIATION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

REF: LOME 1965

IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE FINAL ACT OF THE YEAR'S CHURCH-STATE DRAMA, ARCHBISHOP DOSSEH OF LOME HELD WELL PUBLICIZED RECONCILIATION WITH PRESIDENT EYADEMA SEPTEMBER 8. AS IS USUAL PRACTICE HERE, THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT COMMENT ON THE MEETING, BUT LET THE ARCH-BISHOP TALK TO THE PRESS. IN ELLIPTICAL STATEMENT HE PRAISED EYADEMA FOR HIS DEDICATION TO DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION AND APOLOGIZED IF CHURCH'S OMISSION (ABSENTEISME) HAD CONTRIBUTED TO MISUNDERSTANDING IN BISHOP KPODZRO AFFAIR. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS GOT WILL ALLOW KPODZRO TO TAKE UP HIS DUTIES AT AAKPAME AND PAY FOR THE REPAIR OF DAMAGES TO CATHEDRAL THERE. WE ASSUME RPT WILL TONE DOWN ITS CRITICISM OF IMPERIALISTS IN CLERICAL ROBES. EMBASSY ALSO INFORMED THAT CHURCH MILITANTS FEEL ARCHBISHOP WENT TOO FAR IN APPEASING GOT AND THAT UNTIL CHURCH WILLING TO STAND UP AGAINST GOT ABUSES--E.G., FORCED NAME CHANGES AND VIOLENT OPPOSITION TO KPODZRO CONSECRATION--INCIDENTS WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUR.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LOME02025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760345-0545
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760967/aaaacflz.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LOME 1965
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOT RECONCILIATION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
TAGS: PINT, TO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006